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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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North Korean Army (NKA)

1. An estimated four battalions of North Korean Troops were seen in the area of Ch'ongjin. All wore winter uniforms and some had epaulettes of two types-- mostly all red; yellow and blue. More than one battalion wore the old army uniform, blue with blue epaulettes and silver insignia. Such units are engaged in reconstruction work only. Several of the soldiers seemed very young.
2. NKA troops are utilized for internal security and police work. In the main market place, two soldiers armed with revolvers kept order among bus passengers. The people were made to form a line, and before entering the bus had to walk through a narrow passageway. Soldiers wearing red and white arm bands had additional duties directing traffic in certain areas such as market places, traffic circles, railroad stations, and the bridge over the drainage canal, and used flags and whistles for this type of work. Red and white arm bands were also worn for fire fighting, a regular duty of the NKA. Fire fighting equipment, including two pumpers and two hose trucks, was located along the road to Eastern Harbor, at the entrance to the Sinam-dong quarter.
3. Two or three times a week the soldiers attended classes in theory where they studied doctrine and Russian.

Organization of NKA Troops

4. Two companies wearing blue uniforms and engaged in building new houses were located in the Ch'onma-san quarter. These workers wore the same uniform as the railroad personnel--blue cap with a red star. Two other companies who also wore blue uniforms were stationed in the Sunam-dong quarter and did the same type of work.

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5. Troops wearing tan winter uniforms were organized as follows:
 - a. One battalion in the Sunam-dong quarter (yellow, blue, and red epaulettes).
 - b. One battalion in the Ch'onsong-ni quarter.
 - c. Two companies in the Ch'onma-san quarter.
 - d. Two companies in the Ch'ongnam-dong quarter.
 - e. Two companies in the Sinam-dong quarter.
 - f. One company for the Neutral Nations Inspection Team guard in the outer quarter of Eastern Harbor.
 - g. One company for guards at the Eastern Harbor prison.
6. Several members of the North Korean navy were seen dressed in blue-black uniforms with silver epaulettes, wide-bottom trousers, and shirts with navy blue collars and two rectangles with white stripes. Some black uniforms with gold epaulettes and silver stars were also seen.⁵
7. Several women seen in the city wore the cream-colored troop uniform and had charge of cooking and laundry for the troops.⁶ A large number of girls who wore blue uniforms with silver epaulettes worked either for the railroads or in the construction of lodgings.

Weapons, Equipment and Movements of the NKA

8. On 10 and 11 December 1954, several NKA sections moved from the Eastern Harbor area and were replaced on 12 December. Exactly half the troops in the movement were armed with Soviet submachine guns with round magazines and half were armed with Soviet rifles with fixed bayonets.
9. The packs carried were not uniform. Some men wore mountain packs (the official pack) wrapped in overcoats which did not seem to be of the best quality, several men had packs covered only with a large canvas with two straps attached, and some carried their belongings in small fiber suitcases which were worn and outmoded.⁷
10. The march formations of these sections, groups, and detachments were always perfect. A company was moved only in this march formation and during the day. Several times it was noticed that there were always about 20 men in a section. Troops were never seen being transported by railway.

Communist Chinese Forces (CCF)

11. Few CCF were seen in Ch'ongjin. An estimated two companies were there; one stationed in a large building in the Ch'ongnam-dong quarter and the other in the Songyang-dong region, working as guards for Seishin Airfield. CCF liaison and general staff personnel were estimated at about 20 persons stationed in the outer area of Eastern Harbor. Included in this number were two Chinese women who were employed as domestic help only. Arms for the CCF consisted of Soviet-made submachine guns.

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Paramilitary Training for North Korean School Children

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12. [] the middle school pupils from the school in the outer area of Eastern Harbor were furnished with wooden rifles and taken to a hill overlooking the school. There they took part in various activities included in individual, team, and group combat training, consisting of a man isolated under fire, progress of a team over rough terrain, and an attack on a ridge by a group of eight men. The girls, 12 to 14 years, took part in the same exercises as the boys. All the exercises were repeated, and picks and shovels were used after each attack. All morning was devoted to these paramilitary exercises, and three groups received the same instruction: 12 to 14 years, 14 to 16 years, and 16 to 18 years. The leader was a North Korean who wore a bright yellow jacket and white trousers, and who also led the frequent assemblies which were conducted under strict discipline.

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13. [] different training exercises were held-throwing grenades with stones in the preparatory stage, throwing grenades from a foxhole or trench, and bayonet practice. The boys and girls, 12 to 18 years old, were given wooden rifles with fixed bayonets and pioneer tools (picks and shovels). They were not issued special clothing but performed in their own clothes. They practiced fighting with bayonets in attack, parry, long and short lunges, and in charging a trench.

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14. [] despite the snow and cold, the pupils received detailed instructions in preparation for firing from prone and kneeling positions. They fell to earth on command, and groups of about 8 to 10 carried out the various exercises. The program was completed, after many assemblies, by section and company training, and an endurance test with weapons. The training was very detailed with no improvisation, and was based on a general plan.

1. [] Comment. Possibly Ch'ongjin is a training center.

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2. []

3. [] Comment. Communist theory and doctrine is presumably meant.

[] Comment. Apparently the study of the Russian language is obligatory for all officers.

4. [] Comment. These companies probably included both male and female workers. The latter were girls from 18 to 24 years of age. On the other hand, they were possibly engineering troops.

5. [] Comment. They apparently were North Korean administrative personnel with specific duties.

6. [] Comment. They did not seem to be members of a special group.

7. [] Comment. [] it appeared that NKA troops were completely lacking in packs (knapsacks or mountain packs).

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8. [] Comment. It is difficult to describe the enthusiasm and interest with which the children followed their paramilitary training; the elan and joy with which they performed their exercises.

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